COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Submission Template

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Organization Name: West Bank Community Coalition (WBCC)

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Primary contact for this submission? Hussein Ahmed, Executive Director

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FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

- 1. **Eligibility.** The WBCC has been funded through the Community Participation Program in the past.
- 2. **Community participation efforts.** Describe proposed outreach activity in the neighborhood, and methods to involve residents and other stakeholders in one or more of the three key program purposes. How will you engage residents and other stakeholders of their neighborhood in developing a Neighborhood Priority Plan?

The West Bank Community Coalition (WBCC) believes community engagement as one of the most critical element in achieving a thriving and sustainable community. With this in mind, we developed a [three] step plan, which consists of:

- 1. Engaging the residents, business owners and other neighborhood stakeholders by sharing news and information about events and issues;
- 2. Educating community members about issues and policies of importance to them; and
- 3. Ensuring that a diverse group of community stakeholders are actively involved in the process.

This plan will ensure that a cross-section of citizens as well as a diverse group of community stakeholders are actively involved in the process of defining critical policies and tools for the community's future growth. Civic engagement is important to the residents of the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and the WBCC wants to tap into this energy and put it to work for the community. In an effort to achieve these goals WBCC will use flyers, mass emails, phone calls and word of mouth to reach out to the community and to disseminate relevant information. We will also reach out to other groups and organizations with similar interests for potential partnerships. WBCC disseminates and provides information to the neighborhood in a various ways:

- Workshops that engage communities and promote best practices to reduce crime in the neighborhood;
- WBCC participates and co-sponsors public engagement events and festivals that are part of a larger effort to effect community change;
- Through our monthly board meeting where neighborhood stake holders and residents regularly participate;
- Through e-democracy forum & our mass distribution list where WBCC utilizes whenever we're making announcements:
- Through other partnership initiatives and meetings where we also announce any new updates and developments;
- WBCC members who attend regularly Business Association monthly meetings and distribute flyers;
- Through the monthly subcommittee meetings;

- Through participation in other initiatives including University Alliance meeting, District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and the Central Corridor/LRT Project; and
- By using social media and internet forums such as Facebook and edemocracy.

All aforementioned are means of sharing information with the community.

3. Building organizational capacity. Through community outreach, WBCC will seek the input and participation of its members and stakeholders to help design and implement comprehensive plans aimed at furthering the common interest of the community. We believe better and lasting results can be achieved when citizens are given a greater share in shaping the policies that affect their lives. This Fall we plan to increase the frequency of our regular community meetings to keep members informed and become more involved in WBCC's work in the neighborhood. During these meetings we plan to identify and recruit more active members to increase our memberships and volunteer base.

Furthermore, starting early Fall, WBCC will organize "community Education Series", a monthly educational programs on topics ranging from employment, affordable housing, health care/Healthy foods, civic engagement, immigration, crime and safety, youth development, neighborhood beautification, healthy homes and environment and more where subject matter expert will be invited to talk about various issues of importance to the community. We will use the study published the Cedar-Humphrey Action for Neighbor Collaborative Engagement (CHANCE) students in March of this year as a guide as we set priority plans.

We are acutely aware of how crucial board member participation is in fulfilling the organization mission and vision. As a result we are implementing board training programs in Fall this year with the help Lance Knuckles, Neighborhood Specialist from the City of Minneapolis. This is to equip board members necessary training and skills to make effective decision and use the organization's resources in the most efficient way. In addition to overseeing these projects, the WBCC board will also take a more active role in the implementation and evaluation of these programs.

4. Building neighborhood relationships. WBCC engages regularly diverse groups of neighborhood leaders. There are core groups who are regular attend our monthly meetings. We also work with other community organizations, nonprofit organizations, business associations as well as other committees. Our organization enjoys a solid support from the neighborhood and as a result we work hard to maintain the neighborhood trust. Our board composition is a reflection of the neighborhood diversity.

Over the years we have established good working relationships with neighborhood anchor Institutions. This Summer the WBCC was instrumental in enrolling 20 kids

(Grades 9-11) from Cedar-Riverside neighborhood the in *Urban Scrubs Program*, a fiveday scholarship program where students were given a rare opportunity to learn directly from healthcare professionals while participating in hands-on activities in a variety of healthcare fields such as dentistry, nursing, physical fitness, public health, emergency medicine and many more.

WBCC is important member of several neighborhood boards and committees such as the University District Alliance, the Cedar Riverside Safety Committee, U of MN/Fairview Health Commons Advisory Board, Fair Housing Equity Assessment Steering Committee and more. Recently, The WBCC Executive Director was appointed by Mayor R.T. Ryback to represent the WBCC in the Stadium Implementation Committee. This is a testament to our commitment to being a force for change in the Cedar-Riverside/West Bank neighborhood and in the region as a whole.

- 5. Involvement of under-engaged stakeholders. Over the past two years the WBCC has taken steps that resulted in increases involvement and participation of the diverse populations in the community. We believe this multicultural outreach effort is essential for building the core capacity of the organization. In an effort to increase our outreach, WBCC's Executive Director is currently working on a plan to engage the small but growing Hispanic, Vietnamese, and Korean groups in the neighborhood. We will also reach out and engage local businesses to build stronger alliances and partnerships. WBCC is planning to implement ways to bring news and information to community members with hearing and visual impairment. We will seek the help of organizations that advocate for the people with these disabilities such National Association of the Deaf and The American Foundation for the Blind. WBCC has participated in a survey by the City of Minneapolis on how city-funded organizations accommodate people with disabilities. We would like to get more help and guidance from NCR Department on how to best serve members of our community with hearing and visual impairments.
- 6. Housing Activities. Housing is one of the top priorities for WBCC. The Cedar-Riverside neighborhood has one of the lowest incomes in the state. The 2010 census figures show that the neighborhood's median household income was \$14,400 compared with \$37,974 for Minneapolis as a whole. There is a disproportionate number of renters than homeowners in West Bank as a result, affordable housing is a major issue facing this community. WBCC is committed to giving its members most relevant information on affordable housing. However, WBCC recognizes Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program (CRNRP) as the authority responsible for planning, implementing and reviewing the Cedar Riverside NRP Neighborhood Action Plans (I and II) and WBCC will support them in this effort. In an effort to involve West Bank community in the Light Rail, we are currently involved in Fair Housing Equity Alliance and Met Council programs to bring housing opportunities to the neighborhood through the Corridors of Opportunity and Living Cities Projects. About 25-30% of the organizations time is devoted to housing issues.
- 7. **Unused funds.** We would like to have any unused funding to be rolled over or carried over to next year's funding.

8. **Budgets.** Submissions should include a budget showing how Community Participation Program funds will support the organization's community participation work and an amount set-aside for implementation of homeowners in this neighborhood.

BUDGET

Staff Expenses	\$62,260.00
Employee Benefits	\$4,500.00
Professional Services	\$12,775.00
Occupancy	\$6,390.00
Communications/Outreach	\$15,000.00
Equipment and Supplies	\$5,000.00
Festivals and events	\$3,000.00
Development	\$2,500.00
Fundraising	\$2,800.00
Part-time Outreach	\$28,800.00
Worker	
Neighborhood Priorities	\$11,857.00
TOTAL:	\$154,882.00

Notes:

- Staff expenses should include payroll, FICA, and withholding, or contract staff.
- Employee benefits should include any health insurance, retirement, or other benefits.
- Professional services should include the cost of temporary contractors, bookkeepers, accountants, etc.
- Occupancy should reflect costs related to rent, utilities, phone, websites and email expenses, and other similar expenses.
- Communications/Outreach should include costs of publications, printing, postage, delivery, flyers, etc.
- Supplies and materials should include office supplies as well as expenses for supplies related to ongoing programs such as block patrols, etc.
- Festivals and events can include any costs related to community events and festivals. Food is not an eligible expense.
- Development expenses could include costs related to training, education, recognition, or orientation for board, staff and volunteers.
- Fundraising could include any costs related to fundraising for your organization (hiring of consultants, costs of materials, postage, events, etc).
- Neighborhood Priorities: at this point you do not need to know what the priorities are. Just indicate what the organization would like to set aside at this time for future priorities.